

*How do I recognize evidence of geologic change in my environment?  
What is the source of the Crissy Field rip rap rocks?*

## DESCRIBING ROCKS

Some of the characteristics geologists use to describe types of rocks and their origins are color, crystal or grain size, veining, and angularity or rounding. Below are questions to guide you through the identification process and examples of some of these characteristics. You will have this reference to use when you examine the rip rap rocks at the field site and in the lab.

Is the rock made up of interlocking crystals, sedimentary grains, or glassy?

How big are the crystals or grains and are they all the same size or different sizes?

Are there veins, and if so, what are their colors, are they fibrous or not?

Are the rocks angular or rounded or has their shape been modified by human or biological activity?

Texture/Grain Size				
Very fine crystals with some larger visible crystals	Uniform visible crystals	Fine sedimentary grains or clay	Sand-size sedimentary grains	Glassy
				
Veins			Rounding	
Fibrous veins	Solid quartz vein and quartz-filled gas bubbles	Gas bubbles with no material filling them	Angular outline	Rounded outline
				